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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 20 Nov. 1951

SUBJECT Difficulties in Coal Production and  
Trade with the Soviet Bloc

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

DATE OF  
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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1. Czechoslovak exports are behind schedule and the country is seriously in debt in its trade with the Soviet bloc. Other satellites are now withholding counter shipments to Czechoslovakia, so that the country is now forced to import butter from Sweden and apples from the Netherlands instead of buying such nonessential items from the East.
2. Czechoslovak coal mines are operating at a loss. The cost of mining 100 kg of coal in the Ostrava area is 250 Kcs while the initial sale price is only 60 Kcs. The recent action by the government to increase the output in the Ostravice-Kamenna region, under the direction of the Minister of Interior Vaclav Nosek, was instigated by the USSR since the Czechoslovak government had previously been unable to raise coal output above 60 percent of the production quota.\*
3. The morale of the workers in Moravska Ostrava is low partly because of the sizable production bonuses granted Party members even if they do not work a full day. New Communist workers are warned against wearing Party identification in the mines. SIB police are no longer seen in Ostrava at night because of repeated instances of attacks on individuals.\*\*

25X1A [REDACTED] coal and coke exports to Austria suddenly dropped in August 1951, possibly because of production difficulties in the Ostravice-Karvinna region. On the other hand, [REDACTED] 25X1A

25X1A [REDACTED] Czechoslovakia would probably be able to export coal during 1952 at the same rate as during 1951 as a result of the recent action taken by the Government in that area. This action is not further defined.

25X1X \*\* [REDACTED] At a workers' conference called by the Communist Party miners threw into a slag pond the speaker who proposed that the workers work on the one remaining free Saturday each month.

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